

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council, St. Peter's Draycott

Held on 30/05/2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the church

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1. Opening prayers

Stuart opened the meeting with a reading and prayers. John took the chair, and welcomed Thea back after her sickness absence (though still convalescing).

2. Apologies, welcome

Present:

Stuart Burns	SB	John English	JE	Pat Mullay	PM
David Cheetham	DC	Chris Green	CG	Thea Oliver	TO
Gill Dury	GD	Tricia Lumley	TL		

3. Additions or amendments to agenda

Added: 6f, g.

4. PCC minutes from 29/03/22- confirmation of accuracy

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record and signed by JE.

5. Brought forward and arising matters from the minutes

03/08/21 #6e (PA system). The hum has been solved with advice from Intek. They have sold us an extension lead to the lectern microphone with a switch that does not 'bang' when switched off.

07/09/21 #6b (Eco Church)

TO and GD have not yet had a chance to follow up on their section ('Lifestyle'); carry over

22/11/21 #6a (Benches)

- (i) CG has prepared the place for Norman Brade's bench, including clearing ivy off the wall behind it. Unfortunately the wall needs repointing before the bench installation, and Rob

Millard is too busy to attend to it. It is really Mendip District Council's responsibility, but they are unlikely to do anything about it soon. *ACTION*: TO will talk to Rob and if necessary we will search for alternatives.

(ii) Sarah Burn's bench has just been ordered. It will be delivered to the church on 28th June.

04/01/22 #6h (Introductory leaflet from Alan Rowntree for St Peter's) Nothing new.

16/02/22 #6d (Rewilding the churchyard). We have designated about a third of the churchyard as no-mow and put up signage to demarcate the area and to explain our action. Mendip District Council contractors have done one cut and left the no-mow part. However they have not mown all the rest, and some of it now looks quite untidy. Although some of us may like this, the idea was to keep a contrast between the sections and this is failing. We have not yet had complaints but it seems only a matter of time. The MDC contractors never contact us and we never know their plans. (NB. Thanks to Richard Oliver for doing some mowing, and clearing grass cuttings with CG). *ACTION*: CG will contact MDC (again) to request a cut

29/03/22 #6g (Piano). Gordon Jeff's piano had been delivered to church and tuned. Our piano has gone to the school, who are thrilled. *ACTION*: CG to thank Gordon on behalf of the PCC.

6. New matters

6a. Appointment of church officers

We all agreed to resume our previous duties as church officers, as follows:

David Cheetham - Treasurer

John English - Lay Chair, Covenant secretary, Electoral Roll Officer

Chris Green - Churchwarden, Secretary

Thea Oliver – Deanery Synod Representative, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Tricia Lumley - Deanery Synod Representative.

6b. Diocesan Board of Finance statement

The statement had previously been circulated to all the PCC by Stuart. David summarised its main points – that they had few reserves, large debts and a reduced income since the start of the pandemic. One of their responses is a proposed reduction in clergy numbers to 150, a reduction that affects every deanery. Our own deanery has to find two to make redundant, and it is hard to see how this will be accomplished by 'natural wastage'. Our own benefice would seem to be safe – it is a large one that makes a significant contribution (surplus to the requirements for a single salary).

Solutions suggested to parishes to improve giving include encouraging the use of standing orders for regular giving, and the adoption of contactless payment technology. While the first may be feasible (though it applies to few people), the latter will probably come with overheads that make it uneconomic for a parish with not many visitors, such as our own.

Note we are being asked to provide a new 'parish update' of regular attenders.

6c. Chris's Readership license renewal

Chris Green's license will expire at the end of July. To renew it, he needs to have the support of his incumbent and PCC. Stuart proposed renewal, Tricia seconded, and all were in favour. Chris thanked them for their support.

6d. Church magazine price rise

The editor Rob Walker had raised the issue at our APCM, which asked us to discuss it. The printing is done in the parish office and we are not charged by Cheddar, which allows us a modest profit

(shared with Rodney Stoke). However it is only responsible to introduce a price rise, as it is not currently covering its costs. We proposed 60 pence. This will need to be agreed with Rodney Stoke. Stuart said that Cheddar would meet costs of the smaller parishes whilst it could. He said he would raise it with Rodney Stoke (unfortunately they have just had a meeting and it was not raised).

6e. Reducing heating of the church

This was another matter the APCM asked us to debate, for both cost and environmental reasons. Various ideas had been proposed. Use of the school during the winter months seemed the most attractive (as it would allow us to continue to hold services at the same time as usual and it is close to the church, from which people could be directed). We would still have funerals, weddings and significant festivals (such as Christmas) in church. The church heating has a 'frost-stat' that activates the heating below 5 degrees, which will protect the building from freezing.

ACTION: TO will sound out the head teacher, and raise it at school governors if he agrees

6f. Concert in church

Barry and David have requested that we have a fundraising concert in church on July 15th. The PCC agreed (enthusiastically), and Thea offered SoSP support. This is a very welcome return to form!

6g. St Thomas mass setting

A member of our congregation has said that the congregation finds the St Thomas mass setting too difficult. Members of the PCC had not noticed this. We shall not use it again until Christmastide. Perhaps we should have a congregation rehearsal before we use it again.

7. Continuing matters

7a. Worship

If Covid is to be treated like other endemic diseases in the UK (such as 'flu), should we revert to sharing the chalice? We discussed the practicalities and decided we preferred intincting anyway. We might also be flexible about queuing – when there are few people in church, the celebrant might administer to people in their pews, only changing to queuing when the numbers exceed (say) 20.

Similarly, should we relax rules about the peace? Stuart suggested that we state any precautions in the pew notes and not restate them every Sunday, and the meeting agreed.

The joint benefice service at St Peter's (29th May) had been well attended and much appreciated.

7b. Synod

The next synod will be a picnic at the bishop's palace on 14th June. If anyone would like to attend please let them know as soon as possible, for numbers.

7c. Finance update

Balances were £16,874.69 for the General Fund, and £12,517.55 for the Fabric Fund.

7d. Fabric update

Health and safety (arising from Richard Oliver's report to the APCM).

The following were picked out to remind us all: matches left up; folding shelf in kitchen area (north transept) left up; plugs overloaded.

Most other major issues were taken up by the quinquennial survey (see below). One exception is the moss growth on the path. Another is the chains around the area for cremated remains (the

posts need straightening to avoid sagging). *ACTION*: CG will share these issues with the churchyard maintenance group.

CG had not included the whole health and safety report at the APCM as it was rather detailed. Full version to be circulated to the PCC.

Quinquennial Survey Report.

CG circulated the forward maintenance plan summary (last 2 pages of the report). NB. The full report will be shared with the PCC by email. Issues are referenced by paragraph number, below.

NB. The architect prioritises the issues as A, B and C, with A for immediate attention, B and C less urgent. He also indicates estimated costs.

For immediate attention

The only 'A' issues were fire extinguisher testing, 4.3.1 (which we do annually anyway), and a repair to the upper path (where the tarmac path of the old churchyard meets the concrete path of the new), 5.2.1. The latter is a trip hazard, with a 'step' being created by minor subsidence in the tarmac. It would be a significant cost to tackle in isolation (Chedburn estimates £800). CG has raised this as a health and safety issue with Mendip District Council, as they maintain our paths. If they do not action this, we shall add it to some other similar repair job in the future.

Issues for attention this summer

The most important issues to tackle relate to damp in the church, due to the cost and expense it can cause us if unchecked.

Main areas relating to this are:

2.1.1. (Snapped roof tiles to nave and chancel). CG will discuss with Rob, but where areas are out of his reach we will get Dawsons to quote us (being steeplejacks they can access high areas).

2.1.2. (Repointing flashings in vestry/ WC roof). CG will ask Rob- they should be low enough.

2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3 (all involve repointing of walls in the church). CG will discuss these with Rob.

Issues for self help

There are a number of areas that we may tackle ourselves (2.7.1 – the back door; 3.4.1 – the WC window). Could also apply to wall redecoration (3.7.1), but we must fix sources of damp first.

4.5.1 – disabled audit; we would ask Richard Oliver to look at this.

ACTIONS: CG will arrange a meeting with Rob as soon as possible to go over the above issues, and also discuss areas such as the size and condition of rainwater goods – 2.2.2. He will organise other tasks during the rest of the year.

The meeting supported CG's suggestions and thanked him for progressing these issues.

7e. School

An early years teacher has just been appointed at the school. Mrs Rebecca Stafford will be in a half-time (0.5) job share with Mr Matthew Perrett, to free him for other duties. Thea was present at the interview.

7f. Supporters of St Peter's

SoSP news

- There are new members to SoSP
- First Saturday Coffee and Cake restarted and numbers are gradually increasing

- Lent Soup Lunch for Christian Aid Ukraine fund raised £170
- The jumble sale raised £200 (other items are being sold via Facebook etc.)
- Christian Aid Big Breakfast was very popular and raised £288 (still awaiting envelope counts)

Future events

- Stall at the Straw berry Fayre; pig racing and Pimms, £1 a ticket raffle
- Walking treasure hunt around Draycott, barbecue at Valley's Edge: August 6th
- Nature talk in St Peter's (September, to be confirmed)
- Harvest Lunch in St Peter's, 1st October (Saturday)
- November Coffee and Cake, with tombola at St Leonard's Christmas Fayre
- December Advent Festival (Christmas Trees from recycled materials) – early December
- Joint Christmas Fayre with PTAF – December

Rules for events in church

We had a further discussion on rules for buying and selling in church as SoSP (and other) events.

We agreed that in all such activities, those concerned should be connected with the local community, and/ or with all proceeds going towards the church.

No-one objected to a prize-a-time tombola, in spite of the element of chance involved.

8. *Dates*

Next PCC is 1st August. We agreed to meet a bit earlier, at 7pm – in church, as usual.

The meeting closed with the Grace, which we said together.